President.—

Mr. M. K. Raman, I take it that you withdraw the motion.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Yes, Sir.

The motion was, by leave withdrawn, and the grant for Demand No. I was allowed by the House.

DEMAND II—Agriculture and Panchayats.

Motion No. 8.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 81,437 for Agriculture by Rs. 45,678.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

Sir, Regarding the reduction of Rs. 45,678, for which I have claimed, out of the allotment Rs. 81,437 for Agriculture, I shall proceed with my reasons. I have heard all that the Head of the Agriculture, Panchayats and Veterinary Departments said in justification of his facts and the demand made by him for the allotment in the current year's budget. But I am sorry I am not the least convinced of the inevitable need for altering the reduction which I have already proposed. This House will remember all that I said in detail about the most unsatisfactory way in which this most useful department has been worked, in a manner of the blind leading the blind ; and I do not wish to take more of the valuable time of this House in reiterating the same. Suffice it to say that a thorough overhauling of the department and the methods of its work in a manner suited to the conditions in Cochin is urgently called for at a less cost to the State. The amount which I ask the House to reduce is only that which exceeds the receipts of the Farm, Cocoanut plantions, &c.

The expenses on Farm Operations—Rs. this
Maintenance of Gardens—Rs. 2,18,740. enta-
Station—Rs.4,034, Cattle-breeding and Se as coun-
depots—Rs. 640, thus make a total of R question of
receipts from the above have be lar subjects,
Rs. 16,900. The net loss on account, th for funds for
which I have asked to be cut, when ers; and there-
deficit one. d particularly

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President.—It is not a deficit budget now.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

If the House thinks that the expenditure on the maintenance of gardens (I mean the Hill Palace, the Krishna Vilas, Spring Field in Coonoor and Tullocks Gardens in Madras) could not be wholly cut, I shall not raise a vehement protest against the whole of it, but would be satisfied by cutting a third of this amount, and ask only for a reduction of Rs. 31,095, instead of Rs. 45,678. I don't find any justification whatever for granting the amounts budgetted, regard being had to the deficit budget we are forced to face with in these troublous times. In conclusion, the whole House, I am sure, will realise the perilous situation of having to spend about 2 lakhs and twenty-five thousand on a department which brings in a poor income of less than 17 thousand, and refuse to vote for anything more than what I have suggested.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir, I second the motion. My object in seconding this motion was primarily to bring to your notice, Sir, the very bad condition in which some of the gardens are kept. I have had occasion to go into the Guest House Garden.

President.—You will kindly note that "Maintenance of Gardens" comes as the next item, the motion by Mr. M. K. Raman. This refers to a quite different item.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

The mover of the motion wants to reduce the budget allotment for public gardens by a third of the allotment.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

There is no head "Maintenance of Gardens". *Land r*comes within the amount that is allotted for Mr. intenance of gardens.

deemed to h**ident.**—Does "Maintenance of Gardens" this heading?

Mr. M. K. RA SALEM (*Jews*).

*To reduce th*uded in this Rs. 46,748. In the Guest *Land Revenue by 2*, where I had occasion to go lately,

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I found that the grass was not even cut, and that is the only garden that I have seen here. If I were to judge of the condition of the other gardens by the one that I have seen, then, the condition must be too bad. But that is only a presumption which is open to be rebutted by the Member for Agriculture on the opposite side. According to our understanding, the proposer has to say everything that he wants to say in his main motion, so that he will not take up unnecessarily the time of the House. So I don't wish to add anything more to this subject, as I have something more to say on agriculture.

President.—

Any non-official member who wishes to speak on this motion?

There was no response.

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

Mr. President, Sir,

I have already, this morning, explained the situation of the Agricultural Department. I am afraid, I shall not be able to adduce any further reasons this after-noon.

President.—But will you be able to carry on the department?

Mr. I. RAMAN MENON (*Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats*).

With the reduction now proposed, I am afraid, I shall not be able to carry on the work entrusted to me. I have been observing that in all countries probably except in India, the demand for Agricultural education and similar matters has been urged by the people, in places where there is representative government. I cannot certainly understand the position taken up by the hon'ble non-official Members of this Council who, strictly speaking, are the real representatives of the people and the agriculturists of this country. In every country where there is the question of the development of Agriculture and similar subjects, there is always a demand from the people for funds for education, agriculture and similar matters; and therefore, I don't see why this House should particularly

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complain for a reduction in the grant, which is for their own good. If, however, they feel that the department is not properly managed, that is quite a different matter. This House is at perfect liberty to call for an enquiry into the question, and then find out for themselves whether the funds allotted to the department, managed by me as the Superintendent of Agriculture and as the head of other departments under my charge, have been utilised for the good of the State. I have nothing further to add.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR

(Diwan Peishkar).

Mr. President,

Well, I wish to make a few observations. Before the Department of Agriculture was transferred to the control and management of Mr. Raman Menon, I had something to do with the administration of that department. The Department of Agriculture is not run on commercial lines. (*Hear, hear.*) It is not intended for making a profit. It is not intended that the Government should make a revenue out of it. On the other hand, it is intended purely for developing the resources and wealth of the country. Cochin is purely an agricultural country, and income from land, to the people in the shape of foodstuffs, and to the State in the shape of Land revenue, will be affected, if land does not yield properly. It is absolutely necessary that the cultivation of our lands should be made intensive by Agricultural education. There should be no stagnation in this direction. You should not remain stationary. You must always be moving. Progress—agricultural, commercial and industrial—is the order of the day, everywhere. The population is on the increase, and you have got to make strenuous endeavours to increase your food products, if you want your countrymen to be active and prosperous.

There is another vital thing to which I should draw the attention of the House. The quantity of rice produced in a normal year in our State is not sufficient to feed the population even for five months in the year You have got to depend on imports from Burma, Coconada, Palghat and other places to make up the deficiency. Thus, every year you have to depend

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upon foreign places for this most absolute necessary of life. Mr. Raman Menon and his host of officers are working towards the achievement of this object, in accordance with the policy chalked out by one of the Diwans, Mr. Bhore, after taking into consideration the circumstances prevailing elsewhere. Our policy is to increase the food supply of the State so as to make the State self-sufficient, so far as the quantity of food-stuffs required for our consumption is concerned.

We must progress, and progress must be in two main directions. The first direction is by the intensive cultivation of our land, by making our own ordinary cultivators adopt improved methods so as to yield more. This cannot be done without proper agricultural instruction ; and agricultural instruction cannot be imparted in the schools by setting them lessons and asking them to do book exercises. We must experiment and demonstrate. We must show our ryots how intensive cultivation is to be done. Therefore, the expenditure on agricultural development should not be considered by this House on the basis of Rs. as. ps. It is the eventual educative value—not the present educative value, but the future educative value—that you have to take into consideration in deciding whether the grant for the continuance of the present Agricultural Farm at Ollukkara should be voted for. The operations in the Farm consist not only of actual cultivation of a few acres but also cover scientific researches, cattle-breeding, investigation as to crop division and other matters connected with the development of Agriculture. The Farm must be run on educative lines and not on profitable lines. If you cut short the grant now applied for under Agriculture, you will be committing a real suicide—I call it suicide. We must have sufficient food to eat, and how can you get it without development of Agriculture ? This House will, no doubt, concede that agricultural improvement is the main item of economic development in the State. In fact, it is the first source of development, the first direction of development in the resources of the State. Your Agriculture, your Industries, your Co-operation, your Irrigation and also your Forests are all development heads. A great deal of economic development is possible by tapping the resources of our forests.

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If, instead of being an official, I am just now on the non-official side, I would have insisted on asking a great deal more than my friend, Mr. Raman Menon has asked for. My policy will be, my aims will be, to ask for double the amount, so that we may develop. If I were on the other side, I would have certainly asked for double the amount. I observe that several members of this House have criticised the working of the Agricultural Department, and it is quite open to all those critics to go to the Farm, see the constructive work done there and suggest improvements. Well, if this is done, they will be co operating with Government, and will be of help in conducting the propaganda work of the department. It is for facilitating propaganda work that the Panchayats have been placed under the Superintendent of Agriculture. If the members of this House will see that the propaganda work is properly done, it is my personal conviction that the department will be far more useful in developing the resources of the country. If the members of this House insist on moving a cut in the allotment for Agriculture, I say, once more, that they will be committing an act of suicide. I strongly oppose the motion for any cut in the allotment.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

May I know, Sir, if the non-official members will be in order, if they speak after the official members have spoken?

President.—I think there is no harm in allowing you to proceed.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

I would not have interfered, Sir, in this debate, had it not been for two points raised in the observations made by the Member for Agriculture and the Member for Land Revenue. The first and only point for not agreeing to the proposed reduction, raised by the Member for Agriculture is that the department could not be worked, if the cut is passed. The House will remember the reasons that underlay the attack made upon the department, yesterday. The House was discontented with the way in which it was worked here, and the object of this reduction is to give tangible expression to the sense of the House, and as a protest

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against the ways of the department. I am sure, the House will agree with, and not differ from, the view that the Agricultural Department in this country should undertake some educative work. But I ask, what is the sort of educative work the department has undertaken? A farm here, or a farm there, will not develop educative work.

President.—Scientific experiment is carried on there.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

Sir, What I am going to say is that that is not the answer to the point raised. Considering the nature of Agricultural education in the State, we can say we don't want it. We want an education that will benefit the poor ryot in carrying on his cultivation. This will be more useful than an educational experiment carried on in some parts of the State. I am not for pressing this motion to a division, and I would request the member who proposed this measure to withdraw it, if an assurance is given that an investigation will be welcomed. If an investigation by the non-official members of this House will be welcomed by the department, we shall be satisfied. The House will not think that the expression given, yesterday, of the concentrated discontent of the whole State, in this House, was not made with an irresponsible mind. The members would have looked into them more minutely, but the official papers were not placed before them. So, if the department could welcome an enquiry, I would request the mover of this motion from the non-official side to withdraw it in the face of that assurance.

President.—There was something like that in the Diwan Peishkar's speech.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA MENON (*Cranganur*).

I may be permitted to make a personal explanation. What I wanted was not a permission given to visit the Experimental Farm but an enquiry, a Commission of enquiry, a Commission of non-official members accepted by the department. There is nothing under the rules to prevent us from going and seeing what is done in the Farm, nor is there anything under the rules to prevent a Commission of enquiry, if the department is pleased to welcome it.

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I would request the Hon'ble Member to withdraw the motion.

Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON (*Secretary to the Legislative Council*).

Sir, I never wanted to take part in this discussion, but wanted for some time to be a silent member. But the issues at stake are so large that it would be culpable if I did not say a few words on the subject. I am prepared to concede, for the sake of argument, that this department is not properly working. I shall also concede for the same reason that there is waste there, and that the propaganda work that is carried on by it is defective. Still, we have reached a stage of progress. Let us not go back. There is the Council to watch the proceedings of that department, and a Retrenchment Committee is promised by the Government. In view of these things, will it not be better for us to wait for an year at least, before we try to burn our boats and go out of our business? We have got a reputation for sobriety and moderation outside our dear little State. Let us not tarnish it.

I submit, Sir, that it is not time for us to order a Commission of enquiry into the working of the Agricultural Department. That would be impeaching the conduct of the officer at its head, without any sufficient reason for so doing The Retrenchment Committee proposed by the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnattukavu and accepted by almost all the members will be an accomplished fact in the near future. I think it is better for us to wait and see what the outcome of that Committee would be, and then, it will be time for us to see what we can do in the matter. Till then we shall wait, in the light of the cordial spirit with which every criticism offerred by the non-official members was received by the officials.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir, I suggest that the other two items may be taken up for discussion. We can put it, one after the other and vote. We have taken this motion for discussion. The next items may also be discussed, according to the order, and the mover may have the right to reply, and then, the motion may be put to vote.

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Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON (*Vyttila*).

Sir, In my discussion of the budget, I condemned the department and its operations. We are here for the first time discussing a subject about which we know very little, except practical knowledge. But we are criticising the action of an expert who has got an English Diploma also. It may be a fact, when looking through our eyes, that the figures that are shown in the budget may seem too much for a cocoanut plantation or for paddy cultivation. But still, having got this opportunity, I think, it is better for us to wait one year more and see how the Agricultural Department works during the coming year, after giving them what they ask for; and if, at the end of the year, we do not see sufficient progress, it is in our hands to cut short the expenditure they ask for, next time. The Government will do it. Not only that. We can move a resolution asking the Government to abolish the department as a whole, if the Agricultural Department is not going to work satisfactorily. If, at the end of the year, there is in sufficient progress, I think, we will be justified in reducing the allotment. Now, we ourselves are only experimenting just like the Agricultural Department. This is the first time we assemble in a House like this, and I think, we will not be justified in curtailing any expenditure asked for by the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. V. K. KOCHCHUNNI MENON (*Ernakulam*).

Sir, I was also of opinion that the expenditure of the department is rather too much in certain respects. That was the first impression created in me, on going through the budget, but to cut off a substantial portion of the amount would make the department practically useless. The proper course, therefore, appears to me, to be the one suggested by the Secretary to the Council. I, therefore, oppose the motion.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

Sir, I too rise to oppose the mover. My main reason for opposing this motion is that it has been in itself an allotment for agriculturists. I for myself am an agriculturist, and so I cannot be perplexed to see that the major portion of this side of the House is against Agriculture. While it can be admitted that the working of the department is not at all satisfactory, still,

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in proportion to the amount asked for by the officer of the department, I think, it is not at all too much, when considered with the value of Agriculture in Cochin. I think, this side of the House has made a mistake in thinking that the usefulness of the department is not equal to the extent of the allotment which they demand. It is on account of the bad co-operation of the agriculturists of the State with the department. It is the only department which has to co-operate with the agriculturists of the State, and I fully believe that the defects noted in the working of the department are only due to the want of the co-operation of agriculturists with the officials of the department. Then, under these circumstances, it is not at all a mistake in the working of the department but a mistake of the agriculturists themselves of the State. I have often visited the Central Farm of the State at Ollukkara. As a matter of fact, I am glad to say that I have learned so many lessons from the working of the Farm at Ollukkara. Agriculturists of this side have no special knowledge of the scientific method of working agriculture. I don't think that they can boast themselves that they are amply coped with sufficient knowledge in the working of agriculture. I say that all the agriculturists of the State must go deeply into the department and note carefully the working of it. In view of these facts, I would not allow the motion to be passed. I strongly oppose this motion.

President.—Does any member wish to speak? (There was none.) Then, I call upon Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar to reply.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

From the speeches delivered, I am made to understand that I am for ending the department altogether. I am not for it. I am not for committing suicide. You must continue the Department of Agriculture which would benefit the public. That was the speech which I made, yesterday.

President.—Do you press your motion?

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

Sir, I beg to withdraw it, if the Council permits.

The motion was allowed to be withdrawn, and hence withdrawn.

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